



Combat Airlifter

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WELL WISHES FROM COL. DONOHUE

The 19th Airlift Wing Commander's last Drop Zone as he prepares for his next assignment.

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NORMANDY

The commemorative event of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day aimed at a simple goal: Remember the commitment, sacrifice and human toll of world conflict and vowing never to repeat such an undertaking by honoring those who brought it to an end.

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223RD CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS

SQUADRON RE-DESIGNATION

On May 10, Gov. Asa Hutchinson, along with key community leaders and the 189th Airlift Wing leadership, signed state bill 632, carrying the Arkansas Cyber Initiative one more step in the direction of cybersecurity and cyber education within the state.

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U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KRISTINE M. GRUWELL

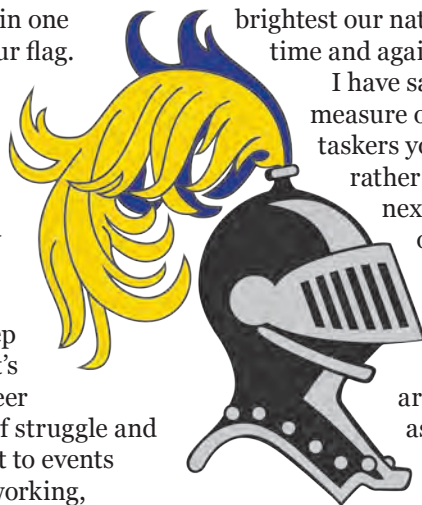
Team Little Rock Airmen load a commemorative pallet to a C-130J Super Hercules in preparation for a memorial airdrop at Little Rock Air Force Base on June 10. The 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron aerial delivery flight hosted a memorial airdrop in honor of U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shawn McKeough Jr. who was killed during an attempted robbery March 16 at a gas station in North Little Rock.

Colonel offers thanks to Team Little Rock

Team Little Rock,

I have made a habit these last two years of writing down my thoughts from time to time, and the topics have covered a wide range: Thunder Thursdays, our role in the National Defense strategy, senior leaders' perspectives, safety, family ... in one we even discussed the symbolism of our flag. And now at the end of my time in the seat, having covered so many things that chronicled the Team Little Rock story, I am not quite done yet. There is one more topic left to cover: a heartfelt, sincere thank you from my family to yours.

That thank you is to every Airman who worked nights or weekends to keep our Combat Airlift mission on track. It's to every first responder who helped steer and support our team through times of struggle and loss. It's to the spouse who still made it to events on top of taking care of the family or working, even when his or her Airman was deployed. It's to the squadron commander who, time after time, sacrificed for their unit because that's what we have asked of our



Air

into the fabric of our culture here.

While being your commander has been the honor

leaders. I promise you, I could spend the rest of this note listing out these examples — each with an associated memory of an event (or late-night phone call) I will carry with me from this assignment that validates my belief that Team Little Rock is made up of the best and brightest our nation has to offer. You have proven that time and again.

I have said that when you get to be my age, the measure of your value to our service is not in the taskers you complete or the hours you fly, but rather in the legacy you leave behind in the next generation of Airmen. I am reminded of something one of the great orators of antiquity said: What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. When I look around at what we have accomplished as a team over the last few years, I am absolutely blown away by the dedication, patriotism and passion for our Force and our mission that is woven

of a lifetime, my eyes are not looking back ... they're on the horizon. Having seen our team push the envelope on readiness while continuing to meet our nation's global mobility needs, and having watched as we carried one another through it all as a team, I promise you I could not be more excited about what the future holds for Little Rock AFB. One of the unique things about the Home of Combat Airlift is that it's the center of the C-130 world, so I imagine when I make my way through here again down the road, I will be able to take in all Team Little Rock has done knowing the foundation of work we set here has made such a huge impact. Until then, I offer my thanks for allowing me and my family the honor of serving you. Good luck and godspeed!



Col. Gerald Donohue

Culmination of Honor: D-Day 75 years later

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy McGuffing

19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

NORMANDY, France – “The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of the liberty-loving people everywhere march with you ... we will accept nothing less than full victory,” said U.S. Army Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of Allied Forces.

Now, 75 years later, Eisenhower's

words still echo to remind the world of the magnitude of the D-Day landings and the heroism of those who committed to wading onto beaches to rush headlong into heavy oppositional fire, to flying through flak to face enemy attack from the skies and below, and to parachuting into a hostile countryside all to end tyranny of the Axis powers and liberate Europe.

The commemorative event of the

See D-Day, 5

“The ability for us to come out here and show some respect where we can and be humbled in the whole experience while being able to learn so much has been incredible. We are better Airmen and people because of this experience.”

U.S. Air Force Capt. Cason Soat, 61st Airlift Squadron pilot

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How to reach us

404 Graham Road,
Jacksonville, Ark. 72076
Phone: 501-982-9421
Fax: 501-985-0026

E-mail:

combatairlifter@arkansasleader.com

Advertising:

combatairlifter@arkansasleader.com

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Gerald A. Donohue	Garrick Feldman
19th Airlift Wing Commander	Editor and Publisher
Capt. Beau Downey	Christy Hendricks
Chief of Public Affairs	Managing Editor

Content provided by 19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs
Contact 19awpaleadership@us.af.mil

COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Kristine M. Gruwell

NAME AND RANK

Tech. Sgt. Josie Zinda

UNIT

314th Maintenance Group

DUTY TITLE

NCO in charge of command support staff

HOMETOWN

Auburn, California

TIME IN SERVICE

18 years

TIME AT LITTLE ROCK

3 years

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HOBBIES

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Tech. Sgt. Zinda took over multiple programs on top of her normal workload after a member deployed. Since picking up these additional programs, she has consistently worked late, come in early and on her off time to make sure the programs are always squared away. Her commitment and dedication to service was recently highlighted with two inspections that resulted in zero defects.

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D-Day

Continued from page 2

75th Anniversary of D-Day aimed at a simple goal: remembering the commitment, sacrifice and human toll of world conflict and vowing never to repeat such an undertaking by honoring those who brought it to an end.

“It’s about keeping the flame alive,” said retired U.S. Army Major General John Raaen, D-Day survivor who scaled Pointe du Hoc, France. “Most of us don’t want to be forgotten, and this is a way for a large group of people not to be forgotten. Those that didn’t come home, they are the real heroes.”

Squadrons from the 19th and 314th airlift wings, from Little Rock Air Force, Arkansas, participated in the week-long tribute to this historic event along with other U.S. units and coalition forces. The commemorative events opened June 5, with a diamond-formation flight over Pointe de Hoc, while U.S. Army Rangers scaled the cliffs. Not only were these events a showcase of the legacy continued by the U.S. military forces, but it also represented the massive scale of Operation Overlord.

With less than 620,000 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II still alive, approximately 170 veterans traveled to Normandy for the commemorative events.

“We are gathered here on freedom’s altar, on these

shores, on these bluffs, on this day 75 years ago, 10,000 men shed their blood, and thousands sacrificed their lives, for their brothers, for their countries, and for the survival of liberty,” said President of the United States Donald Trump. “Today, we remember those who fell, and we honor all who fought right here in Normandy. They won back this ground for civilization.”

“To more than 170 veterans of the Second World War who join us today: You are among the very greatest Americans who will ever live,” Trump continued. “You’re the pride of our nation. You are the glory of our republic. And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

The veterans who were present for this year’s memorial events vividly recounted stories of the D-Day landings and the ensuing battles to liberate Nazi-held Europe. Their stories served as a reminder to those currently serving of the responsibility of wearing the uniform.

“Seeing and hearing the history of what happened by actually being here, there is no better way to learn,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Cason Soat, 61st Airlift Squadron pilot. “To be able to put on display the flights of the C-130 as we drop paratroopers over La Fiere Drop Zone shows we still remember and respect those that came before us—the importance of it never being forgotten.”


The final movement Team Little Rock participated in was the culmination of the D-Day commemorative events—a mass-formation flight performed by the 41st, 61st and 62nd airlift squadrons along with 30 other

aircraft from various units from six nations June 9, 2019. The airdrop was the largest over Normandy since World War II. More than 1,350 U.S. service members, civilians and coalition Allied paratroopers descended over La Fiere Drop Zone on the outskirts of Sainte-Mère-Église, the first liberated town in France. The Iron Mike monument looks over the area and serves as a constant reminder of the events that ultimately served to liberate the Normandy coastline and countryside.

“The ability for us to come out here and show some respect where we can and be humbled in the whole experience while being able to learn so much has been incredible,” Soat said. “We are better Airmen and people because of this experience.”

From past experiences to future generations, this 75th Anniversary of D-Day is more than another day to reflect—it’s a day that will be long remembered as a culmination of honor and respect. Their legacy lives on in today’s units as Airmen use the C-130J to conduct rapid global mobility to support commandant commands and aid in humanitarian crises.

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'Chief's chief' recognized



COURTESY PHOTO

Nearly 100 chief master sergeants and their families gathered on May 18 for the annual Chiefs Fish Fry at the Small Base Lake to reminisce about days gone by and talk about where the Air Force is headed. The chiefs discuss shaping the Air Force. This year, they recognized (Ret.) U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Tucker for providing inspiration to the Airmen of our great Air Force for almost 60 years and will continue to be remembered as the "chief's chief." Tucker was promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant in 1982 and is currently a charter member of the Little Rock Chiefs Group, having served president five times. He has been instrumental in raising over \$150,000 over the years for numerous enlisted programs here at Little Rock.

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189th Airlift Wing receives new commander



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA CONDIT

Col. Dean Martin accepts the position as the 189th Airlift Wing commander during a change of command ceremony June 7 at Little Rock Air Force Base. Martin was previously the 189th Operations Group commander.

By Master Sgt. Jessica Condit
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On Friday, June 6, Col. Thomas Crimmins handed the title of wing commander to Col. Dean Martin. Presiding over the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Marc Sicard, the Arkansas Air National Guard air component commander.

"It was an honor to be your commander for two years," said Crimmins. "Everything that we've accomplished has never been about me. It's always been about the wing and this mission."

Martin handed the position of the 189th Operations Group commander to

Lt. Col. Chris Raymond in April, accepting the position as the wing commander. His experience and knowledge within the C-130H community and the wing provide valuable qualifications and knowledge in the upcoming term as the wing commander.

Martin highlighted Crimmins' success during his tenure as the wing's commander, discussing the new cyber mission, and the future it holds. He also focused on the men and women of the wing who support the combat airlift and cyber mission.

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See Commander, 12

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19th LRS honors fallen Airman

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KRISTINE M. GRUWELL, 19TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



(Above) Airmen assigned to the 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron prepared to load a commemorative pallet during a memorial airdrop at Little Rock Air Force Base on June 10. The 19th LRS aerial delivery flight hosted a memorial airdrop in honor of U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shawn McKeough Jr. who was killed during an attempted robbery March 16 at a gas station in North Little Rock.

(Right) Team Little Rock Airmen load a commemorative pallet to a C-130J Super Hercules in preparation for a memorial airdrop at Little Rock Air Force Base on June 10.





Family members of U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shawn McKeough Jr. watch a memorial airdrop at Little Rock Air Force Base on June 10.



Family members of U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shawn McKeough, Jr. watch a C-130J Super Hercules take off at Little Rock Air Force Base on June 10.



Family members of U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shawn McKeough Jr. watch a memorial airdrop at Little Rock Air Force Base on June 10.

SAF/IE visits Little Rock AFB



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY CAPT. BEAU DOWNEY

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Stefanovic, 19th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, and John Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy, examine a section of tarmac during a visit to Little Rock Air Force Base on June 13. The area was used to demonstrate the requirements of an upcoming runway refurbishment project that will ensure the ability of 62 C-130J and C-130H aircraft to deliver agile combat airlift when and where it is needed.



John Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy, discusses housing with a team of experts at Little Rock Air Force Base on June 13. Henderson visited Little Rock AFB to review current infrastructure priorities and future projects that are focused on improving mission effectiveness and quality of life for Airmen and their families.

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223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron re-designation

By Master Sgt. Jessica Condit
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On May 10, Gov. Asa Hutchinson, along with key community leaders and the 189th Airlift Wing leadership, signed state bill 632, carrying the Arkansas Cyber Initiative one more step in the direction of cybersecurity and cyber education within the state of Arkansas.

The bill allows the Arkansas cyber community to readily engage in outreach efforts to rural and regional communities, build awareness of threats and teach basic cyber hygiene needs. Additionally the initiative will assess state infrastructure of cyber risks and develop exercises in conjunction with the public and private sector, teaching communities how to respond during cyber events.

The new bill also presents new cyber opportunities within Arkansas' borders, adding classes to the education system as well as within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics community. Students attending a STEM program or cyber class at their school or as an extracurricular activity would potentially be able to fine-tune their cyber skills by taking more advanced classes, which progress the bill supports.

"I think this bill will enhance and create new opportunities and merge existing ones within programs like STEM," said Maj. Scott Anderson, the 189th Operations Group detachment one commander. "The ACI will be a launching point or a 'garden' to expand Arkansas cyber capabilities, including academia of all levels."

As cyber operations become more desired throughout the world, the need for realignment to support the mission is more apparent. Postured for growth with no end in sight, the detachment upped their game, adding a new squadron to the wing.

Recently, the detachment became the 223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron. On June 9th, 2019, the re-designation occurred during the wing's super drill. The event allowed the cyber Airmen to gain a new level of support to the wing, state and the Department of Defense.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Anderson. "We will now need to figure out to what level we will be able to support, such as coordinating with Joint Force Headquarters, Joint Operations Center, Arkansas Department of Emergency



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA CONDIT

(Above) The men and women of the 223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron pause for a group photo after completing the cyber detachment's re-designation ceremony on June 9 at Little Rock Air Force Base. The new squadron is set on the future and ready to make a positive impact within the cyber community.



(Left) Lt. Col. Chris Raymond, the 189th Operations Group commander and Maj. Scott Anderson, the 223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron commander, pause for a photo during the redesignation of the wing's cyber detachment on June 9 at Little Rock Air Force Base.

(Below) Maj. Scott Anderson, the 223rd Cyberspace Operations Squadron commander, reveals the new squadron banner during the redesignation June 9 at Little Rock Air Force Base.



Management and more. The possibilities are endless and 'cyber' isn't going anywhere and neither is the demand for cyber training and operations, we just need to be resourced accordingly."

Anderson expressed his excitement for what the future of cyber holds for the wing and the honor they feel to carry the name of the 223rd Combat Communications Squadron which was based in Hot Springs.

"What a great lineage we come from. There's nowhere to go but up," he said. "A few years from now, we'll have manpower growth. Let's create a Cyberspace Operations Group under the 189th. Who knows what's in store."



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA CONDIT

Joseph and Barry Martin, sons of Col. Dean Martin reveal the new name on the commander's flagship 81-0629 during the 189th Airlift Wing change of command on June 7 at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Commander

Continued from page 7

forces, four major commands and one directorate is unprecedented for any wing on this air force base and I believe in the Air National Guard," he said. "This proves to me that each and every one of you has an influence across the total force spectrum and it is your expertise that is called upon daily in our Nation's defense."

As base leadership and community leaders filled the audience, Martin addressed the importance of combined effort and the partnerships built between

the Arkansas Air National Guard and the active duty and reserve components.

"I look forward to working with you as we continue to train and equip the world's best combat airlifters and cyber warriors," he said. "As the 189th answers the community's call, whether it is a natural disaster or deploying true combatants to protect our Nation, your continued support is vital to our success."

Crimmins accepted the position as the Arkansas Air National Guard's new air component commander from Sicard shortly after the wing change of command and is assigned to Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Joseph T. Robinson.

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